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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1420
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0779
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0283
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0184
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RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0147
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 2906
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 2424
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 2705
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0234
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA PRIORITY 2275
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/07/2016

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SUBJECT: SPAIN: PRESERVING THE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON

REF: STATE 193090

Classified By: DCM Hugo Llorens for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (S) The DCM met with Spanish MFA Director General for Foreign Policy Rafael Dezcällar to discuss the ongoing effort of Syria and Hizballah to destabilize the legitimately elected Lebanese government of Prime Minister Fouad Siniora. The DCM reviewed reftel demarche with Dezcällar and emphasized that now is not the time to send encouraging signals to Syria.

¶2. (S) Dezcällar replied that Spain's unequivocal policy is to support and bolster the Siniora government, as it represents the best chance for democracy and stability in the region. He said that Spain is under no illusions about the destabilizing role which Syria is playing in the region, both directly and through its proxy, Hizballah. However, Dezcällar noted that if one were to take a snapshot of the current political situation in the Middle East, one would see that Syrian President Al-Assad presently has no incentive to change his course. Dezcällar emphasized that the Western approach to Syria has been all stick and no carrot; as such, Spain has tried to reach out to Syria to offer an avenue for dialogue with the West. He reiterated, however, that Spain's primary objective is to help preserve the Siniora government.

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Llorens